

## PTEROPHORIDAE

- 1504 *Platyptilia pallidactyla* (Haw.) – Little Cawthorpe (54) a few 25.vi.93  
– PHS & JRL
- 1506 *Stenoptilia saxifragae* Fletch. – Stockport (58) 20.vii.91 – S. Hind  
per ESB
- 1509 *S. pterodactyla* (Linn.) – North Walney (69) one 26.vi.93 – RWJU &  
JRL
- 1510 *Pterophorus tridactyla* (Linn.) – Tory Hill (H8) 25-26.vi.93 – KGMB
- 1523 *Oidaematophorus lithodactyla* (Treits.) – Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe  
(54) one larva on *Pulicaria* 24.vi.93 – PHS & JRL

**Corrections to 1992 list**

68, 626 & 628. Substitute: *N. Uist* (110) for (100)

**A subcortical fungus beetle basking in sunlight**

Mr Allen's comment (*Ent. Rec. J. Var.* 1995; **107**: 201) on the unusual appearance of a subcortical beetle in the sweep-net reminded me that I had recently seen a most unlikely insect out and about, sunning itself on a tree root. On a visit to Beckley Woods, near Peasmarsh, East Sussex on 27.iv.1995 I noticed a shiny pea-sized beetle sitting in the sun on a root at the foot of a small ash tree. As I approached within about ten feet, it dropped from its sunny position the few inches onto the leaf mould around the tree. It proved to be a specimen of *Scaphidium quadrimaculatum* Ol.

This pretty little beetle is moderately common, at least in Sussex, but is more usually found under the thick bark of fungoid trees and logs; I have never found it "out in the open".

As with the subcortical beetle which Mr Allen reported – the colydiid *Synchita humeralis* (F.) – there is no doubt that *Scaphidium* must occasionally leave the sanctuary of its normal habitat beneath the bark, to fly off and colonise new sites, but occasions are rarely seen or recorded. Some dead-wood and fungus-feeding beetles are well known for their flight near dusk and are regularly caught by evening sweeping. Among these are Pselaphidae, Scydmaenidae and, in particular, the Leiodidae, many of which are practically subterranean. I have taken the delicately marked anobiid *Hedobia imperialis* (L.) several times by sweeping late in the evening. However, on this occasion, the *Scaphidium*, was "out and about" during late morning; although the sun was warm, the brisk wind had a chilling edge to it and very few insects were on the wing.

It may be interesting to remark that whereas previously the Scaphidiidae has been regarded as a separate family, it has recently been suggested that the group should be accorded only sub-family status within the Staphylinidae – a group of diverse habit, including under fungoid bark, which nevertheless take to the air at the least invitation from a cool April sun. – RICHARD A. JONES, 13 Bellwood Road, Nunhead, London SE15 3DE.